



Investigation Summary

Fri Feb 20, 2004 9:26am

Reporting ID	Investigation Summary Number	OSHA-36 Number	OSHA-36 Establishment Name
0112600	200690600	100690486	Furniture Plus/The Stripping Workshop
Event Date	12/29/03	Event Time	11:00 am
Type of Event	Employee experienced a massive heart attack and died.		

Inspection Number/ Establishment Name	306272303 Furniture Plus/The Stripping Workshop
Injured/Deceased Name	Antonio Minichilli
Sex:	M. Male
Age:	46
Injury:	A. Fatality
Nature:	17 Poisoning(systematic)
Part of Body:	04 Body system
Source of Injury:	09 Chemical liquids or vapors
Event Type:	08 Inhalation
Environmental Factor:	07 Gas, vapor, mist fume, dust, etc. condition
Human Factor:	17 Insufficient or lack of engineering controls
Task:	A Regularly Assigned
Substance Code:	1730 - METHYLENE CHLORIDE (DICHLOROMETHANE)
Occupational Code	658 - FURNITURE AND WOOD FINISHERS

Abstract:

A furniture stripper experienced a massive heart attack and died in the restroom of the company. He had been using a methylene chloride based stripping solution earlier in the morning. He also had been assisting in moving furniture and plywood within the facility prior to the heart attack.

Methylene chloride, due to its metabolism in the body, has the ability to exacerbate underlying heart disease in certain individuals and lead to a premature heart attack. The employee was 46 years old and there were reportedly no indications of pre-existing heart disease.

Air sampling has been done by OSHA at this operation subsequent to the fatality. The results show that workers at the facility performing wood stripping operations similar to what the deceased was performing on the morning of his death were exposed to methylene chloride at concentrations of 46 ppm as an 8 hour time weighted average and to 159 ppm as a Short Term Exposure. These concentrations are well in excess of OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limit and Short Term Exposure Limit for methylene chloride.